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DEPARTMENT OF VISITING NURSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE

IN CHARGE OF

EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

CONVENTION ECHOES

Nearly five hundred nurses engaged in various forms of public health work registered in St. Louis during the second annual meeting of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. Delegates were present from Seattle, Santa Barbara, Salt Lake City, Colorado Springs, Birmingham, Louisville, Richmond, Providence, Boston, New York, and other equally distant points. Associate members, many of whom were directors of organizations engaged in public health nursing, were present from Illinois, Ohio, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa.

All of the sessions, joint, section and round-table, were well and enthusiastically attended and animated discussions made one forget the heat, noise and crowding that seem to be the inevitable accompaniments of conventions. The absence of both of our presiding officers cast a damper over our opening session, but a cheering telegram from our honorary president, Lilian D. Wald, and the joyful news that our president, Mary S. Gardner, was convalescing at last from a very serious illness, put everyone in a proper mood to contribute her best to make the meetings memorable ones. We were also glad to welcome back, after her long illness, our secretary, Mary E. Lent, of Baltimore, and to hear from her the good news that our absent director, Ellen N. LaMotte, has been spending a year in Paris to such good advantage that her book on *Tuberculosis Nursing* is almost ready for the press.

We missed Miss Brainard of our *Quarterly*, but Miss Sherwin and Mrs. Thwing brought the welcome news from Cleveland that our Editor-in-Chief was better and that our good Cleveland friends would continue to guide our *Quarterly* and *Bulletin* publications for at least another year. Every member of our organization receives the Bulletins and no member can afford to be without the *Quarterly*. *Public Health Nursing* is such a sturdy child that it has outgrown its infancy and primers before its grade text-books are ready, consequently we are groping for help in sociological text-books that bear only indirectly on our actual problems. The *Quarterly* is our own first Complete Reader, a veritable mine of

information, and Miss LaMotte's book will be eagerly awaited by every tuberculosis visiting nurse.

Our publication list has also been increased by an interesting monograph entitled "Florence Nightingale, An Appreciation," by Mrs. Arthur Aldis, President of the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago. Mrs. Aldis has presented her essay to the Organization for Public Health Nursing. It has been published in pamphlet form and may be secured from our executive secretary. Nurses will be glad to own this, for a more sympathetically appreciative sketch of our great leader has never been written and, in addition, at a business meeting, it was voted that the proceeds from its sale should be given to the Florence Nightingale Fund.

The chairman of the Committee on Membership and Finance, Mrs. James L. Houghteling of Chicago, was warmly applauded when she reported a grand total of 1097 active, associate and corporate members. She further reported that her committee was to be composed of members from every state, each member being in turn chairman of a local committee on membership and finance in her own state. Ten such state committees are being formed. It was later decided by a change in the by-laws that only non-professional people should be asked to serve as state chairmen, the feeling being that in this way a more wide-spread interest in the work of our organization could be maintained.

The report of the Executive Secretary, Ella Phillips Crandall, received an ovation. Her detailed account of the machinery of our rapidly-growing organization, the work of the New York office, her two long speaking tours, one in Illinois and Wisconsin, the other in Nebraska, Missouri and Virginia, and her comments on the work being done by our various members made her hearers realize that this report was an historical document quite as epoch making as it was interesting. She brought out one of the most serious of our present needs in public health nursing,—literature that can be sent nurses and organizations throughout the country. Many people desire to learn by the experience of others, rather than by their own blunders, and the Executive Secretary is constantly asked for literature on many subjects. We have no printed matter to speak of, however, and no classified formulated standards to advance. Much of our work has been so largely influenced by personal opinion and experience that Miss Crandall's appeal for more printed matter to disseminate and a definite platform on various burning questions is echoed by each one of us. Truly the Organization for Public Health Nursing was not organized a day too soon. When one busy superintendent can receive, in less than a week, six letters, more or less like the following: from a nurse, "What must one do to become a Civil Service Tuberculosis Nurse? How much ground is covered in the ex-

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amination and what should one study;" from a Woman's Club, "How does one organize visiting nursing in a town of 60,000;" from a director, "Will you kindly write us immediately just what a visiting nurse does, how much she should be expected to do and how much she should be expected not to do;" etc., it is time we had formulated standards and practical, helpful leaflets on these and many other vexing subjects.

Our standing committees will be a very great assistance in preparing this printed matter for they were appointed to investigate methods and conditions, prepare standards and present recommendations or resolutions annually. Each committee has planned work that will extend over several years and two committees, that on Organization and Administration and the Committee on Records and Statistics, presented recommendations this year at our final business meeting. There are seven other committees: on Mental Hygiene, Tuberculosis, Infant Welfare, Industrial Nursing, School Nursing, General Visiting Nursing, and Hospital Social Service, and every committee was represented on the program and reported that good work had been done throughout the year. Several had sent out carefully prepared questionnaires, the one from the Committee on Rural Nursing containing over eighty questions. The questionnaire sent out by the Tuberculosis Committee aroused a good deal of interest and must have been in part responsible for the splendid attendance of nurses interested in tuberculosis work. At one of the two round-tables conducted on this subject in the room of the chairman, Curry D. Breckenridge, twenty-eight nurses were present and discussions lasted from 8.50 a.m. until 1 p.m. without a break.

We were fortunate in having in the Mental Hygiene Section (Elnora Thomson of Chicago, Chairman), Amelia Sears of Chicago, the recently appointed director of the newly created Department of Public Welfare of Cook County. Miss Sears spoke on the problems which sub-normal individuals present to the social worker and illustrated her talk with charts and photographs of families in which the mental condition of the mother had made the hard work of several agencies profitless.

The Committee on Records and Statistics presented two record-forms and a report covering nearly two years' work. One form, a 3 by 5 card, was recommended for use by small organizations whose one or two nurses have little time for clerical work. The other, a 5 by 8 card, combining a family and individual history, with space for case-plans and services rendered daily, was recommended for use by associations desiring fuller case-histories. When desired, the two cards were advised, the smaller one to be used for all patients visited less than three times. Each card contained the ten items recommended by statistical experts as of particular value in morbidity studies, in the compilation of which

public health nursing records should be of greater assistance than they are. The ten items suggested were: Sex, Race (white or colored), Age, Conjugal Condition, Birth-place, Nationality, Occupation, Diagnosis, Number of Visits and Condition on Discharge. These two forms were thoroughly discussed and revised several times at two section meetings, one round-table and three committee meetings. They were finally completed however, and by a vote of the assembly, the report of the committee—to the effect that the last two revisions be issued as “Record Forms Recommended by the National Organization for Public Health Nursing”—was accepted and the cards are now in the hands of a publisher. They may be obtained through Miss Crandall. (Already Dayton, Richmond, Peoria and Chicago have decided to adopt them.) The report of the committee was decidedly strengthened by the advice and assistance of representatives of two of our largest insurance companies, Dr. Lee K. Frankel and Mr. Frederic L. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman’s stimulating and helpful address on “Practical Statistics of Public Health Nursing and Community Sickness Experience” at one of the joint evening sessions made so apparent the need for more carefully compiled, simplified statistics of public health nursing, that the contribution which our records can make seems particularly significant in this period of awakening interest in social insurance and prevention of illness and accident.

Another crowded section was that on Industrial Nursing (Eva L. Andersen of Chicago, Chairman) which was followed by two round-tables. At one of these, it was discovered that seven industrial nurses had been sent to the convention at the expense of the firms employing them. That industrial nursing is growing in importance was evidenced by the large attendance and the very close attention paid the report read by Agnes McCleery of her first year’s work as industrial nurse with Ed. V. Price and Company of Chicago, and the other two papers so thoughtfully and ably presented at this section. No finer tribute than these carefully prepared addresses of Mr. William A. Field and Mr. Arthur H. Young of the Illinois Steel Company could have been paid our organization.

The section of most interest to nurses and directors alike was that of the Committee on Organization and Administration, of which Mrs. Aldis is chairman. The two papers presented by representatives of boards of directors interested every director and nurse in the large audience, for there are few more burning questions in the public health field than the securing and administering of funds.

The session closed with a business meeting on the last morning, at which resolutions were adopted, by-laws revised and brief reports from

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each committee read. The recommendations of the committee on Organization and Administration were accepted as follows:

1. That board meetings be held monthly throughout the entire year.
2. That remuneration be expected for nursing services wherever possible.
3. That a committee be appointed on boards of directors for every department of the administrative and nursing work.

The recommendations of the committee on Records and Statistics were also accepted.

The constitution revision arranged for a second vice-president and alternate biennial elections of the president and second vice-president, the first vice-president and secretary. By a majority vote the secretary was instructed to cast the following ballot: president, for two years, Mary S. Gardner, of Providence; first vice-president, for one year, Edna L. Foley of Chicago; second vice-president, for two years, Nancy L. Dorsey of St. Joseph, Mo.; secretary, Mary E. Lent of Baltimore; directors, to serve three years, Nannie J. Miner, Richmond; M. J. Wilkinson, Hartford; Lena M. Warner, Memphis; Lystra E. Gretter, Detroit; Rebecca Shatz, New York. The change in the by-laws makes the superintendent of the Red Cross Town and Country Nursing Service and the instructor in public health nursing at Teachers' College members of our Executive Committee which, for 1914 and 1915, will be as follows: Misses Crowell, Stringer, Wilkinson, Miner, Clement, Crandall; Mrs. Gretter and Mrs. Warner.

FACTS ABOUT CANCER, PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE CONTROL OF CANCER

ITS FREQUENCY

Cancer is of greater frequency in adult life than tuberculosis, pneumonia, typhoid fever, or digestive disease.

In 1913, there were about 75,000 deaths from this disease in the United States.

At ages forty and over one person in eleven dies of cancer. At this period of life the disease attacks about one woman in eight and one man in fourteen with fatal results.

ITS VICTIMS

Cancer respects neither race, creed, nor social position.

It is the common enemy of all mankind, attacking rich and poor alike.